LONGMAN CLASSICS

Five Famous Fairy Tales

Longman

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Five Famous Fairy Tales

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Longman

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Stage 1: 500 word vocabulary

Please look under *New words* at the back of this book for explanations of words outside this stage.

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Introduction

Fairy tales

A *fairy tale* was once "a story about fairies and other small magical people", as perhaps your dictionary still tells you. Today we often mean a story for children with some magic in it when we call something a fairy tale. There is certainly magic in each of the stories in this book.

The first story has a magic table, a magic donkey and a magic stick. The next story, *The Prince and his Servants,* has people with magical powers: Fat Man, Big Ear, Long Arms, Quick Eyes and Cold Man. *The Glass Box* has a magic way of getting help from three magical dogs. *The Fisherman and the Giant* is full of magic: the giant himself is a powerful worker of magic, although a King of the Giants is even more powerful, and there are magic fishes, and a beautiful woman with very bad magic power. There is another woman, a queen, who seems good but is really wicked in *The White Birds,* but, as often happens in fairy stories, there is also a good fairy who shows Elisa how to break the power of the wicked queen.

The brothers Grimm

There don't seem to be any fairies in what (in English) we call *Grimms' Fairy Tales,* although there are large numbers of magical people, small ones like goblins and elves, and full-sized wizards, witches and devils. The two brothers made their collection of eighty German folk stories between 1812 and 1822. Many of them were translated into English in 1823.

Some of the stories are rather cruel, but they are very old stories, and we know that children don't always mind some cruelty in the excitement of good stories like *The Prince and his Servants.*

Hans Andersen

Two of this Danish writer's many children's stories are in this book. (Another five stories are in a separate book at Stage 1 in this Longman Classics series: *Tales from Hans Andersen.*) Hans Andersen's stories for children were not just collections. He used ideas from old tales, but the stories were his own. They showed a great understanding of children and the world of their imagination.

Hans Andersen's children's stories came out in books of four tales, the first four in the year 1835 in Danish. They were translated into English in 1846. After that, his stories were always translated at once.

The Arabian Nights

The story of the fisherman may be much older than the other stories in this book. Certainly it was written down, in Arabic, a long time before the brothers Grimm or Hans Andersen.

There are no fairies in the *Arabian Nights*, but there is a lot of magic. And there are jinns.

If you live in the desert in Arabia or the north of Africa or other very hot dry parts of the world, you will sometimes see a great column of sand spinning up from the desert, high into the sky. We know that these are caused by the heat of the sun, but they do look like giants, and in the old days the Arab people told stories about these jinns or genies. The giant in the story of *The Fisherman and the Giant* is one of them.

The Table, the Donkey and the Stick

Once there was a man who had three sons, Tom, Bob and Jack. Tom had gone to work with a man who made tables, and other things, of wood. He worked very hard for one year, and, when the year's work was over, the man gave him a table. It was made of wood and it looked like any other old table, but it was a magic table. If you said to it, "Be covered", then it at once became covered with nice food.

Tom was very pleased. He went from one country to another, and from one city to another, and he was always happy. When he wanted food, he set down his table in the house, or in the field, or by the road, and said, "Be covered". And at once it was covered with nice things to eat.

On his journey he came to a house, and he said to the man of the house, "May I stay the night here?"

The man said, "Yes, you may stay here, but I can't give you any food."

Tom said, "Don't give me any food. You can eat with me." Then he put down his table and said, "Be covered", and at once the table was covered with nice food, and they sat down to eat.

Now this man was a bad man. He thought, "I must have this boy's table. It will give me food, and I'll sell the food from it to others."

When Tom went to bed, the man took another table and put it in the place of the magic table.

The next morning Tom put the table on his back. He did not know that it had been changed, and he walked towards his father's house.

At noon he came to his father's house. The old man was very pleased when he saw his son.

"What have you been doing, my son?" he asked.

"I have been making tables," answered Tom.

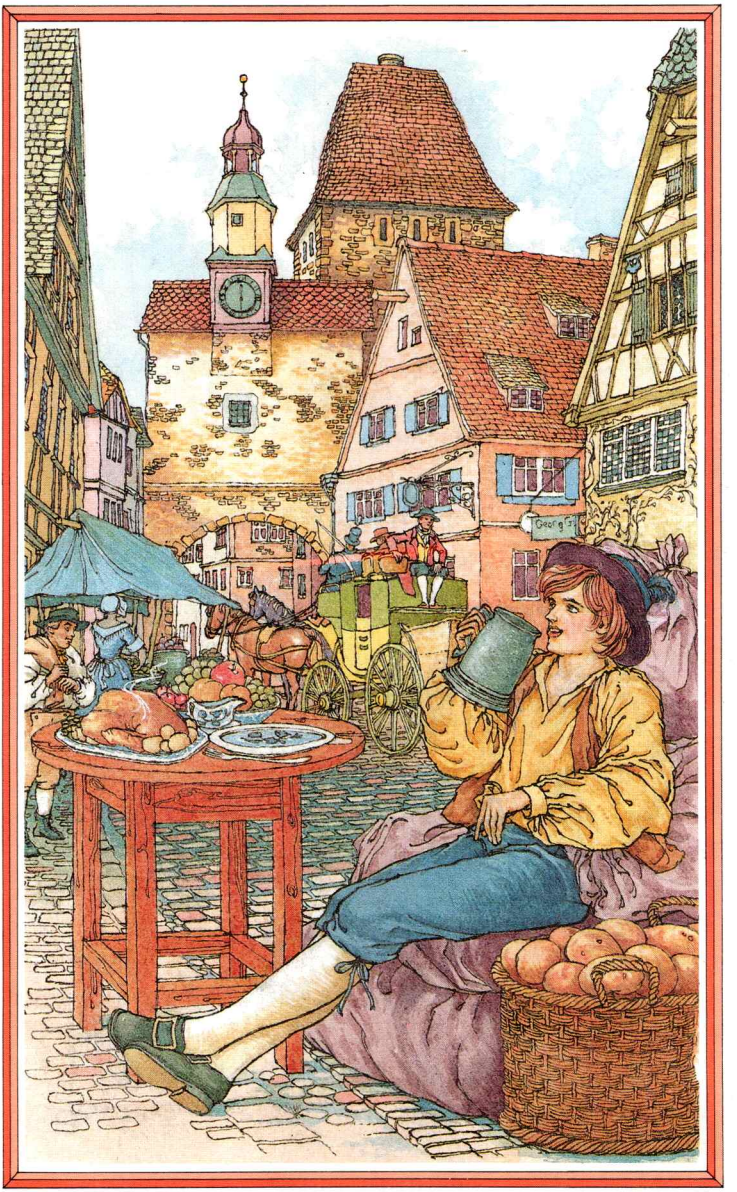
"That's a very good thing to do," said the father. "And what have you brought back with you from your journeys?"

"I have brought this table," said Tom.

The father looked at the table and said, "You haven't made that table very nicely. It's very old, and it's badly made."

"It's a magic table," Tom said. "When I put it down and say, 'Be covered', at once it is covered with nice things to eat. Ask all your friends to come, and you will see what a good table it is, and what nice food I'll give them to eat."

So the father asked all his friends. When they had all come, Tom put his table down in front of them and said, "Be covered". But the table did nothing; it stayed there just like any other old table. Then poor Tom knew that the bad man



Tom's magic table covered with nice things to eat

had stolen his table.

Tom was so unhappy that he ran away and went to work again, making tables. He wrote a letter to his brother Jack and told him about his magic table and the bad man.

Bob was working with a man who had a lot of donkeys. When a year was over, the man said to him, "You have worked very hard, so I'll give you something. I'll give you this donkey. You can't ride it, but it's a very good donkey."

"Why do you say it's good," asked Bob, "if I can't ride it?"

"It's a magic donkey," said the man. "It speaks gold. Put a box at its mouth and say, 'Bricklebrit', and gold will fall from its mouth into the box: the box will be full of gold."

"That's a very good thing," said Bob.

Then Bob went on a journey, taking the donkey with him. Wherever he went, he always had all the nicest things that he could get. Whenever all his money was gone, he said, "Bricklebrit", and his box was full again as before.

After some time, he thought, "I'll go back to my father."

So he set out on the road to his home. And he came to the same house where Tom had stayed the night.

"May I stay the night here?" asked Bob.

"Yes," said the man, "if you give me money

for your food and for your bed."

"Money!" cried Bob. "You can have as much money as you want."

When Bob had eaten his food, the man came and asked him for the money. Bob put his hand in his coat to give the man a bit of gold – but there was no money there.

"Wait," said Bob. "I'll go and get some more money."

Then he took a box and went out to the hut where his donkey was, at the back of the house.

The man thought, "I'll see where he hides his money. In the night, when he's asleep, I'll go and take it." He saw Bob go into the hut. Then he went and looked through a hole in the wall of the hut.

Bob put the box in front of the donkey and said, "Bricklebrit", and soon the box was full of gold.

"That's a good way of getting money!" thought the man. "I must have that donkey."

So in the night, when Bob was asleep in bed, the man went to the hut and took away the magic donkey and put another donkey in its place.

In the morning Bob took the donkey. He thought that it was his own. At noon he came to his father's house. The old man was very pleased when he saw his son.

"What have you been doing, my son?" he asked.

"I have been working with donkeys," said Bob.

"And what have you brought back from your journeys?"

"A donkey," said Bob.

"A donkey!" said his father. "A cow would have been nicer."

"Yes," said Bob, "but this is a magic donkey. When I say, 'Bricklebrit', it speaks gold. Call your friends, and I will give them all as much gold as they ask for."

All the friends came. Then Bob brought his donkey and stood in front of them.

"Now look," he said. "When I say, 'Bricklebrit', the donkey will speak gold. – BRICKLEBRIT!"

But no gold came.

Poor Bob knew that the bad man had stolen his magic donkey. He ran away from the house and went to work again. He wrote a letter to his brother Jack and told him about the magic donkey and the bad man.

Jack was working with a man who got wood from the forest. When the year of work was over, the man said to Jack, "You have worked very hard, so I'll give you something. I'll give you this box. In the box there's a stick."

"Thank you for this beautiful box," said Jack, "but I don't want the stick. It looks like any other stick, and I want to put something prettier than

that in this beautiful box."

"It is a magic stick," said the man. "If any man is unkind or unjust to you, you must say, 'Stick, out of the box!' Then the stick will jump out of the box and will begin to hit the man. And it will go on hitting him. But when you say, 'Stick, back into the box', it will stop hitting the man and go back into its box."

Jack thanked him and took the box. Then he went on a journey. On his journey he was never afraid of any man. If he met a bad man, he said, "Stick, out of the box!" and the stick very quickly sent the bad man running away as quickly as he could run.

Jack came at last to the house where his brothers had stayed – the house of the man who had taken the magic table and the magic donkey. He asked for some food. As he ate, Jack began to tell the man about all the things that he had seen on his journeys.

"Do you know," said Jack, "that there is a table that is covered with food as soon as you say, 'Be covered'? And there is a donkey that speaks gold. I don't know where these things are now, but I saw them once on my journeys. Those are very nice things. But they are not as good as the thing that I have in this box. There is nothing anywhere so good as this."

When the man heard this he began to think, "What can it be? It must be some very good thing. I must take it from him."

At last Jack went to bed. He put the box near his bed. Then he shut his eyes.

After some time the man came to Jack's room. He looked at Jack. "He's asleep now," he thought. He came near to the bed, and put his hand on the box to take it away.

But Jack was not asleep. He had been waiting for the man to come. Just as the man put his hand on the box, Jack said, "Stick, out of the box!" Out jumped the stick and began to hit the man on his head and on his arms and on his back, so that he cried out and tried to run away.

Then Jack said, "Give me the table which covers itself with food and the donkey which speaks gold; then I will tell my stick to stop."

"Yes, yes," cried the man, "I'll give them to you."

Next morning Jack went away, taking the magic table and the magic donkey with him. He came to his father's house. The old man was very pleased when he saw him.

"What have you been doing, my son?" he asked.

"I have been working in the forest," answered Jack.

"And what have you brought back from your journey?" asked his father.

"I have brought a stick," answered Jack, "a nice stick in a box."

"A stick!" cried his father. "Why did you

bring a stick? You can get a stick from any tree in my garden."

"Yes," said Jack, "but this is a magic stick. If any man is unjust, I say, 'Stick, out of the box!' Then out it jumps and begins to hit the man. When I say, 'Stick, back into the box', it goes back again. My brothers had a magic table and a donkey that spoke gold. A bad man took these things from them. But, with the help of this stick, I have got them back again. Now write and ask my two brothers to come home. And ask all your friends to come too. I'll give them food and money, as much as they want."

So Tom and Bob came home again. And the old man called all his friends. Then the table was brought in and Tom said, "Be covered", and at once the table was covered with food, and they all ate.

Then the donkey was brought in. Bob said, "Bricklebrit", and the donkey spoke so much gold that everyone had as much as he could take away.

So the old man and his three sons lived happily ever after.

The Prince and his Servants

Once there was a beautiful princess. Many princes wanted to marry the princess, but her mother the queen said to them, "I will give you something to do. If you can do it, you can marry the princess; but if you can't do it, you will be killed." None of the princes could do the things that the queen said. So they were all killed. Every month some new prince came, and was killed.

Now Prince Carol was the son of a poor king who had a very small country and very little money. Prince Carol heard of the beauty of the princess, and he said to his father, "I want to marry the beautiful princess."

"Never!" cried the king. "If you go there, you will die, as many have died before you."

The prince was very sad when he heard this answer. He was so sad that he became very ill, and his father was afraid that he would die. At last the king said, "Go, then, go to the princess, and may you be more happy than the others have been."

The prince was very pleased when he heard this. After three days he got out of bed, and very

soon he began his journey to the city where the princess lived. He had no servants to go with him, because he was a poor prince. He said, "I'll find servants on the way."

Now as the prince went on his way, he saw a little hill far away. He said, "I don't remember any hill in that place. This must be some new hill. But how could a new hill come in a place where there was no hill before?"

Then he rode to the place and he saw that it was not a hill, but a very fat man on his back asleep. As the prince came near, the fat man awoke.

"What are you doing here?" asked the prince.

"I *was* sleeping," said the man, "and now I am awake."

"Why were you sleeping?"

"I was sleeping because I had a little bit of food to eat this morning. I am awake because now I want more."

"What did you have to eat this morning?" asked the prince.

"Three cows and a hundred loaves," said the man.

"Will you be my servant?" said the prince.

"Yes," said Fat Man, "if you will give me food to eat."

So Fat Man went with the prince.

Now as they went on their way, they came to

another man. He had his head down so that his ear was on the ground. When he looked up, the prince saw that one ear was very large.

"What are you doing?" asked the prince.

"Hearing," said the man.

"What do you hear?" said the prince.

"I hear the trees growing," said the man, "and I hear the birds in a country far away over the sea."

"Tell me, then, what do you hear in the house of the beautiful princess?" asked the prince.

"I hear the princess crying because another poor prince has just been killed."

"Will you be my servant?" said the prince.

"Yes," said Big Ear, "I'll be your servant."

Now as they went on their way they saw two long things at the side of the road far away. They thought that it was two trees which had fallen down. But, as they came nearer, they saw that it was a man's arms. They were the longest arms that they had ever seen. After going on for some way, they came to the man's head.

"You are a very long person," said the prince.

"I am not so long as I *can* be," said the man. "I can make my arms much longer than this."

"Come with me," said the prince, "and be my servant."

So Long Arms went with the prince.

As they went on their way they saw a man with a

bit of cloth over one eye.

"Why have you covered your eye with that cloth?" asked the prince. "Has some dust gone into your eye?"

"No," said the man. "I see very far, and I can see through everything. So, if I want to look at things that are near, I must put a cloth over one eye."

"Come with me, and be my servant," said the prince.

So Quick Eyes went with the prince.

As they went on their journey, the sun became very hot; it was so hot that the prince opened his coat. Then they came to a man sitting by the side of the road – he had two coats on, and he was covered with clothes so that his face could not be seen. But they heard him saying, "Oh, how cold it is! How cold it is!"

"Why do you say that it is cold," asked the prince, "when the sun is so hot that I have opened my coat? Why don't you open the front of your coat?"

"If I opened the front of my coat," answered the man, "snow would fall, and you and your friends would die of cold."

"Come with me," said the prince, "and be my servant."

So Cold Man went with the prince.

The prince came with his servants to the city

where the princess lived. He went to the queen and said, "I want to marry the princess. What must I do?"

The queen answered, "I will give you three things to do, and, if you can do them, you can marry the princess."

"What must I do today?" asked the prince.

"I had a beautiful ring, and it has fallen into the river. Bring me that ring before the sun goes down."

Then the prince went to his servants, and said, "What shall we do?" – and he told them what the queen had said.

"I can help you," said Quick Eyes. Then he took the cloth from his eye, and he looked at the river. "There is the ring," he said. "It is on a little stone not far from here."

"If I could see it," said Long Arms, "I could get it."

Then Fat Man opened his mouth, and he drank, and he drank up all the river so that there was no water there at all. Then Long Arms made his arm long and took the ring, and gave it to the prince.

The queen was very angry when she saw her ring. Then she said, "Now I must give this prince some very hard thing that no man can do." So she thought and she thought. She did not sleep at all that night.

The next morning she sent for the prince and

said, "You must want food after your long journey. I have three cows in a field near my house. Eat them all before noon. If I find one bit when I come, I will kill you."

"Can I ask a friend to eat with me?" said the prince. "No one likes to eat alone."

"You can ask *one* friend," said the queen.

So the prince asked Fat Man to come with him to the field. Fat Man very soon ate all the cows, and he ate all the queen's hens too, and her ducks, and every bit of bread in her house. Then he said, "Is that all there is to eat today? You told me that I should have all I wanted."

At noon the queen called for her food. She waited and waited, but no food came. Then she sent for the cook. "Why is no food ready today?" she asked.

The cook answered, "A fat man has eaten all the food in the house, and all the hens and the ducks. There is no food to be had – not a bit."

Then the queen thought and thought, and at last she said. "Ha! Ha! That is how I'll catch him."

She sent for the prince and said, "Will you come and eat with me tonight? And after that would you like to sit with the princess for two hours?"

"Yes," said the prince, "I would like that!"

"You will not fall asleep when you are speaking to the princess, will you?" said the queen.

"Fall asleep!" cried the prince. "No!"

"If you fall asleep, my magic will take the princess away from you. If I don't find the princess with you when I come, you will be killed."

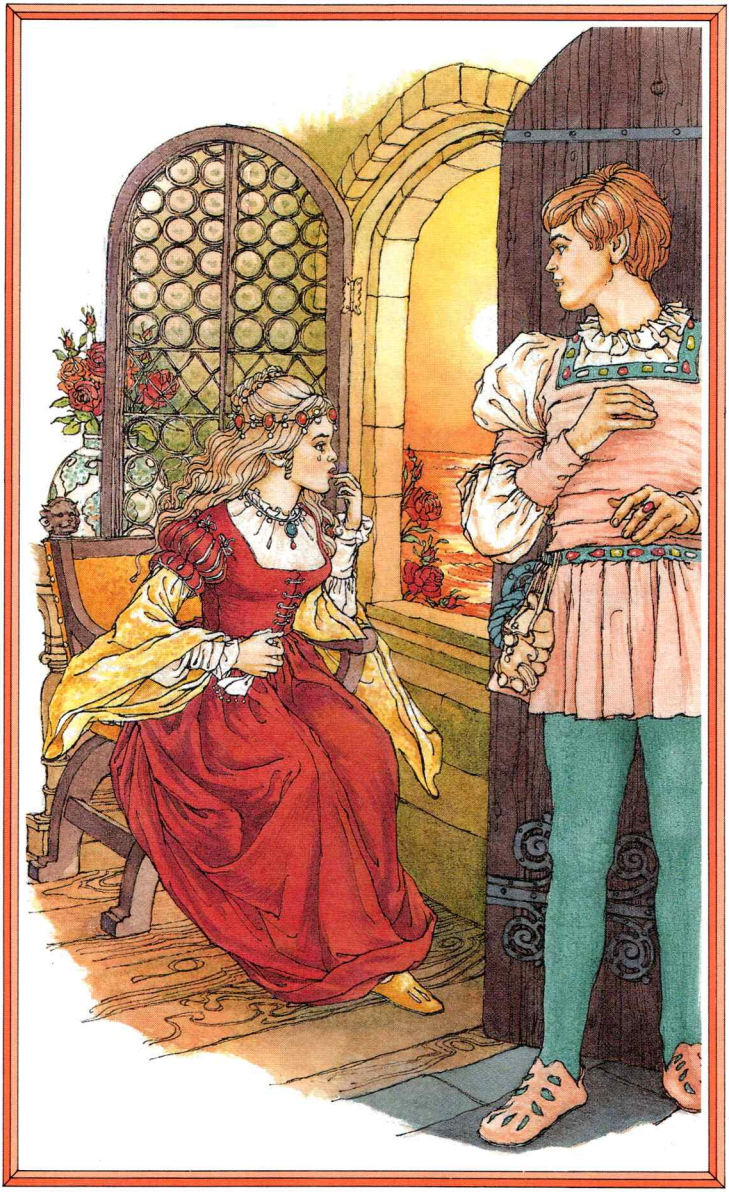
So the prince put on his most beautiful clothes, and he went to the queen's house. Servants came and brought very nice things to eat, and nice things to drink. When the prince was not looking, the queen put a powder into his glass. The prince drank, and did not know what had been done.

Then the queen said, "Come and see the princess now."

He went with the queen and they came to a room at the top of the house. The window opened out over the sea. The princess sat by the window. The sun was going down, and the red light of it was on the water, and on the face of the princess, and all the room was full of the light of roses.

The prince sat down near the princess, and they were very happy for a little time. Then the prince knew that sleep was beginning to come over him. His eyes would not stay open. He did not know what he was saying; he could not hear what was said. Then his eyes shut. And he fell asleep.

After a little time he opened his eyes again. The princess was not there! He looked everywhere in the room, but he could not find her.



The prince sees the sad princess by her window

She was gone! He ran to the window and looked out. There he saw Fat Man. He called to him, "The princess is gone! We have one hour to find her!"

"I can't hear what you are saying," said Fat Man.

Then Big Ear came, and he heard what the prince said.

"Bring me down," said the prince.

Then Long Arms put out his arms and took the prince down from the window.

"Can you hear where she is, Big Ear?" said the prince.

Big Ear put down his ear. "Yes," he said, "she is there. I hear her calling. She says, 'I am here, my prince. I am on the island. I am hidden in a hole in a tree.'"

Quick Eyes looked. "Yes," he said, "I see her."

"But we have no ship to go to her!" cried the prince. "What can we do?"

Then Cold Man opened his coat. Oh! it was cold! So cold! Snow fell. Cold Man jumped into the sea, and the water became ice so that they could run over it. So they brought the princess back. Then Long Arms put the prince and princess back through the window into the room. Just as they sat down, the door opened, and in came the queen.

The queen was very angry when she saw the princess there, but she said nothing.

"We have been speaking about nice things," said the prince, "about trees, and islands."

"Come with me," said the queen. "It is night, and I have made ready a room for you to sleep in. Your servants may sleep there too."

So the prince kissed the princess's hand and then went away with the queen. She took him to a big room, all made of stone. He went in, and his servants went in with him. Then the queen shut the door. She ran to the cook and said, "Make a great fire under the stone room. The fire must burn all night."

After a little time the prince said, "This room is very hot."

"It is hot," said Fat Man.

The prince went to the door. He could not open it.

"I hear a great fire burning," said Big Ear.

But Cold Man was happy. "This *is* a nice room!" he said.

"Open your coat, Cold Man," said the prince.

So Cold Man opened his coat. Then the room became very cold, and the others were all happy.

The queen came to the door and heard them speaking. Then she ran to the cook and said, "Make the fire hotter."

"This is a nice room!" said Cold Man.

"We are being burnt," said the others.

Then the prince took away Cold Man's coat, so that he had no coat at all. "Oh, I am so cold!" he said. "Please give me back my coat."

Snow fell in the room. The prince could not speak because he was so cold, and Fat Man was crying!

Then the queen came to the door. She heard nothing.

"They are dead now," she said.

So she opened the door. And they all came out.

"Let us go and sit by a fire," said the prince. "My face and my hands are blue with cold."

Then the queen knew that she could do nothing more. She went away to another country. The prince married the princess and they lived happily ever after. And the good servants lived with them.

The Glass Box

A poor man named Hans was walking along a road. He had no money at all; he did not know where he would get food for the next day. But he was happy. "I shall find something," he said, "I always *do* find something."

Just then a very ugly old woman called to him from the side of the road.

"What do you want?" said Hans.

"What do *you* want?" said the old woman.

"I?" answered Hans. "I want money: that is what I want."

"You shall have just as much money as you want," said the old woman. "Do you see that large tree? Go up to the top of it. At the top you will see a large hole. Go down into that hole and you will come into a great hall. There are three hundred lamps burning and the hall is full of light. There are three doors in the hall. The key of each door is near the door so that you can open it. If you open one door and go into the room you will see a big box. On the box there is a dog with eyes as large as eggs. Don't be afraid of the dog. Take this cloth, and put it down in front of the dog. Take the dog and put it on the cloth. Then open the box and take as much

money as you want. But, if you want gold, you must go into the next room. There you'll see a dog with eyes as big as apples. Don't be afraid of him. Put him on the cloth, open the box, and take as much gold as you want. If you want jewels, you must go into the last room. There you'll find a dog with eyes as big as loaves. But you mustn't be afraid of him. Put him on the cloth, then open the box, and take as many jewels as you want."

"Thank you," said Hans. "That will be very nice. But what can I do for you? You haven't told me all this for nothing."

"I don't want any money," said the old woman. "I want one little thing. There is a little glass box there that my grandmother lost when she went there. Bring me the box."

Hans went up the tree. At the top he found a big hole. He went into the hole. Then he went down and down and down. Then he saw a light. He went to it, and he saw that he was in a great hall, in which hundreds of lamps were burning.

In the hall he saw three doors. He opened one door and in the little room he saw...! He saw a dog with eyes as big as eggs. And the dog LOOKED at him.

"Good dog!" said Hans. Then he put the cloth down, and he took the dog and put it on the cloth. Then he filled his hat with money from the box. He shut the box, put the dog back on it, and went to the next room.

When he opened the door of the next room he saw . . .! He saw a dog with eyes as big as apples. And the dog LOOKED at him.

"Don't look at me," said Hans, "you may get dust in your eyes."

Then he put the dog on the cloth and he opened the box. The box was full of gold. So he threw away all the money from the other room, and filled his hat with gold.

Then he went into the last room, and he saw. . .! I don't think I can tell you what he saw! He saw a dog with eyes as big as loaves, and it L O O K E D at him!

"I am pleased to see you," said Hans. "I have never seen a dog like you before."

Then he put the dog on the cloth and opened the box. Then he took the shoes from his feet and filled them with jewels.

He put the dog back on the box, and shut the door, then he remembered the old woman's box. So he went back to get it.

At last he came to the top of the tree.

The old woman called to him, "Throw down the box."

"No," said Hans, "it is made of glass."

"Throw it down to me," cried the old woman.

But he did not throw it. Then a large stone hit him on the head, so that he thought he would fall from the tree and be killed. But he caught the tree again and was saved.

"Did you throw that stone?" he called.

Hans and the dog with eyes as big as apples

"Yes. Give me the box!"

"I will not give you the box at all now," he answered.

Then the old woman became very angry. But she could do nothing. She called him bad names, but he did not answer. After a little time he walked away along the road, and she called out more bad names after him.

It was night when he came to the town. He had as much money as he could take with him. So he went to a very good inn and asked for a good room, and told them to bring him the nicest food they had. The next day he went out and bought the most beautiful clothes that he could get. Everyone thought that he must be some great and very rich person, and many people came to him, because they wanted to get money from him for one thing or another.

One day a man said to him, "Have you heard about the princess?"

"What princess?" asked Hans. "Where can I see her?"

"You can't see her," answered the man.

"Why not?"

"Because she is shut up in a great house made of stone. It has one door and the king has the key of that door. The windows are all at the top of the house, very far up. And she never goes out."

"Why does she live like that?" asked Hans.

"She lives like that," answered the man, "because some wizard once said to the king, 'The princess will marry a poor man who lives in a hut.' The king was very angry when he heard that. He made the stone house, and shut up the princess inside it."

"I *do* want to see the princess," said Hans. But he could not see her. He went to look at the stone house, but the king's servants very quickly sent him away from there. Then he put on his nicest clothes and went to see the king. But, when the king heard what he wanted, he was very angry, and said, "If that man ever comes near my house again, you may kill him and bring me his head!"

All this time Hans was living very happily – and his money was going very quickly. One day he looked in his box to see how much money he had, and he saw only two bits of gold in the box! He went away from the big house in which he had been living. He went and lived in a hut. He cooked his own food and he cleaned his own shoes. All his rich friends left him: they did not ask him to come to their houses any more. Hans was poor now; his clothes were ugly; he had no more money; so the friends did not want him. (Most men are like that.)

Then a night came when all Hans's money was gone; there was not a bit even to buy food. He had sold all his beautiful clothes. He looked

about the room to see what other thing he could sell. And there, on the table, he saw the little glass box.

"I won't get much money for this," he said, "but it may buy me a loaf of bread. It is made of glass, but I can't see into it: there may be some jewel or some gold inside, and then I will be happy. I'll look and see what there is inside." But he could not open the box – it would not open! Then he hit it once with his hand. It opened, and out came the dog whose eyes were as large as eggs!

"What do you want?" said the dog.

"What do I want?" cried Hans. "I want money!"

Away went the dog, and soon it came back again, bringing a box of money in its mouth.

Hans thought for a little time, and then he said, "Now I know! If I hit the box once, the dog will come whose eyes are as big as eggs, and it will bring me money. If I hit the box twice, the dog will come whose eyes are as big as apples, and it will bring me gold."

He hit the box twice, and so it was. The other dog came, and brought gold.

Then he hit the box three times, and the last dog came, and brought jewels.

Hans was rich again. He bought beautiful clothes, and he went and lived in a big house. And all the "friends" came back. "We haven't seen you for a long time," they said. "We have

been so sad. Why didn't you come and see us?"

But Hans was not happy with these friends any more. He thought of nothing but the poor princess.

"Poor girl," he said, "shut up in that house. She can never go out; she can never even walk in the garden. The queen is dead, and the poor princess can never speak to anyone but the servants and that ugly old king. How unhappy she must be!"

It was night, but Hans could not sleep. At last he got up from his bed. He took the glass box and hit it once. The dog came.

"It is night," said Hans, "so no one will know. It is such a beautiful night. I know that the princess would like to go walking in my garden, and see the sleeping flowers. Bring her to me."

In a very little time the dog came back again. The princess was on his back, still sleeping. Her face was so beautiful, and so sad: she looked as if she had been crying.

"Poor girl," said Hans. He took her out into the garden. She woke.

"Where am I?" she cried. "I am afraid!"

"You are walking with me in my garden," said Hans. "Look at all the flowers sleeping. How nice the roses smell."

"A garden!" said the princess. "I haven't walked in a garden for years and years. Earth at my feet, and the sky over my head! I'm not

looking at a garden through a window now, but I am in it! And I hear all the little noises of the night, all about me!"

She walked with Hans in the garden.

At last day came near. "I must go," she said. "How did I come here?" Hans told her, and she hit the box with her own little white hand.

"What do you want, princess?" said the dog with eyes like eggs.

"Good dog," she cried. "But what eyes! What beautiful eyes you have got! Take me home, and let no one see us. Thank you, Hans, so much!"

When the princess got on to the dog's back, she fell asleep, and never knew anything. When she awoke, she found that she was in bed, and an ugly servant-woman, named Anna, was saying, "It is noon, princess, and the king is waiting to see you."

"Is he?" said the princess happily. She jumped out of bed. "What a nice day it is, Anna!"

Then Anna began to think. The princess had never before been in bed at noon. And the princess was not always so happy in the morning: "Another long day alone in this stone house," she always said. Then Anna looked: on the princess's clothes she saw earth, the earth of a garden, and in the princess's room she found a white rose. Now there were no white roses in the garden of the king's house.

Anna went and told the king. The king said, "Wait and see. If she goes out again, see where she goes."

Hans loved the princess. All day he thought of her, and all night too. After some days he could wait no more. He hit the box twice, and the dog came with eyes as big as apples. "Bring the princess to my garden," he said. "Tell her that Hans is waiting for her."

So the dog went and brought the princess. But Anna was waiting. She saw the princess go out. Then Anna ran as quickly as she could, and she saw the dog go to the door of a big house. She made a mark on the door of the house. Then she went home.

The princess and Hans walked in the garden. Hans told her all about the old woman, and the tree, and the hall with three hundred lamps in it, and the three dogs, and the glass box. Then he told her about the little hut where his mother had lived, and about his brothers and his sisters. The princess loved hearing all these things. And she told Hans about her mother, and how her mother died, and about the old king, her father. "He was a great man in his time," she said, "but now he is old. He gets angry about little things. That is why he shut me up in the stone house. He doesn't want to be king. He loves roses, but he can't make any white roses grow in his garden, and he is very sad about it."

And then morning began to come back into the sky. "Good night, Hans," said the princess. He hit the box twice, and the dog came and took her back home.

Now the dog had eyes as big as apples, and he could see everything. He saw the mark on the door and he came back and told Hans.

"Ho! Ho!" cried Hans. "Come with me quickly and we will make marks on all the doors in the street, and in the next street too." So Hans and the dog made marks on all the doors.

Day came, and Anna went to the king and told him what she had done.

Then the king went with Anna and some of his servants. They came to the street.

"Here is the house," cried Anna.

"No, here it is," cried the king.

And one of the servants came running from the next street. "I have found the house," he said. "There is a mark on it just as the woman said."

Then they saw that all the houses had marks. And the king went home very angry.

Then Anna thought and thought. After some time she went into her own room and shut the door. She took her needle, and she made a little net. She put small beans in the net. Then she hid the net in the princess's clothes.

"There!" she said. "Now the princess will go out, and, as she goes through the streets, the

beans will fall from the net. Then we shall see where the beans have fallen and they will lead us to the house."

That night Hans walked in the garden with the princess.

"I *do* want to be a prince," said Hans.

And the princess said, "I do want *not* to be a princess."

"Why?" said Hans. She did not answer. And then he told her, "I want to be a prince so that I can marry you."

"Don't be a prince," said the princess. "I couldn't love you at all if you were a prince. I will be a poor girl, and you – you will be just Hans."

Now the dog with eyes like loaves came that night, and he could see at night just as if it were day. He saw the king and Anna, and a hundred servants come out of the king's house. He saw them look at the beans, and he cried out to the princess, "The king! The king! Come at once!" Hans ran and put her on the dog's back, and away went the dog through other streets.

But the king and Anna and the king's servants came to Hans's house.

"Has the princess been here?" cried the king.

Hans did not answer.

And then they saw...! They saw the princess's shoe just at the foot of a little rose tree. White roses, too! And that made the king all the

more angry, because he could not grow white roses in *his* garden.

They took Hans away and shut him in a room in the king's house, with a very small window. And they locked the door. "You will be killed at noon," said the king as he went away.

Hans looked for his box. It had fallen from his hand in the garden, so he could not call his dogs to help him.

Now Hans had a beautiful gold ring. When day came, he looked out of the window, and he saw that he was near the street.

A little boy came along the street with some eggs.

"Hi! Little boy!" cried Hans.

"What?" said the boy.

"Do you want this nice ring?"

"Yes," said the boy.

"Then go to my house and say to the servant, 'Hans had a little glass box. It fell from his hand in the garden. He has asked me to bring it to him.' Bring me the box and I will give you this beautiful ring."

"Yes," said the boy.

After some time the boy came back.

"Here," said the boy, and he gave Hans the box. Then Hans gave him the ring.

Just then the door opened, and in came the king's men.

They brought Hans to a little hill in a great

open place just outside the town. All the men of the town were there. They had come to see Hans killed! On the little hill stood the king, and all the great men of the city. And in front of Hans stood a big man dressed in a long red coat, and in his hand was a great axe.

"Are you ready?" said the king to the Red Man.

"Are you ready?" said the Red Man to Hans.

"No," said Hans, and he took out the glass box.

"Are you ready?" said the king to the Red Man.

"Are you ready?" said the Red Man to Hans.

"No," said Hans, and he hit the box once.

"Are you ready?" said the Red Man.

Hans hit the box twice – three times. And the three dogs stood before him.

"Take that Red Man away," said Hans to the dog with eyes like eggs, "and throw him and his axe into the river." And the dog did so.

"Send all those men away," said Hans to the dog with eyes like loaves. The dog grew bigger and bigger. At last he was as big as a house, and all the men ran back to the city as quickly as they could run.

"Bring the king to me," said Hans. "And bring the princess too." Then two of the dogs brought the king, one dog standing on each side of him. And the other dog came running up with the princess sitting on his back.

"Do you want to be king?" said Hans.

"No," said the king, "I don't. I want to grow roses."

"If I tell you how to grow white roses, will you give me the princess, and make us king and queen in your place?"

"Gladly," answered the king.

So Hans married the princess, and they lived happily ever after. And the old king lived in a house near them, and grew white roses.

The Fisherman and the Giant

There was a poor fisherman. He was very old and very poor. He had a wife and three children. He could not get food for them, and he did not know what to do.

One day he went to catch fish. He put out his net. When he took the net in again, there was something very big in it. It was the dead body of a cow. The fisherman was very angry, but he put the net out again. And again, when he took the net in, there was something big in it – three old pots. He said, "What can I do? I'm a poor man, and I can't get food for my wife and my children."

He tried again, but he caught only stones.

He said, "I'll put the net out for the last time."

So he put out his net, and waited. Then he took it in. There were no fish in the net, but there was a jar made of gold. The top of the jar was shut. There was something written on the top.

The fisherman said, "This is something. It's a good jar. I'll sell it, and I'll get food with the money."

He looked at the jar again. Then he said, "There is something inside the jar. I'll open it." So he opened the jar, and put it down at his feet.

Then a great giant came out of the jar.

The fisherman was afraid.

The giant said, "Now, fisherman, I will kill you."

The fisherman said, "Why will you kill me?"

"You opened the jar, and for that I will kill you," said the giant. "But you can say how you want to die. Shall I kill you with my hands? Or shall I throw you into the sea?"

"But," said the fisherman, "I don't want to die. What have I done to you to make you want to kill me?"

"I'll tell you," said the giant. "I became angry with my king, the King of the Giants. So he shut me up in this jar. On the top of the jar he wrote his name so that I could not come out. Then he threw the jar into the sea. When I was in the jar, I said, 'If any man opens this jar I will make him a great king.' A hundred years went by, and no man opened the jar. Then I said, 'I will not make him a *great* king, but I will make him a king.' Two hundred years went by, and no man opened the jar. Then I said, 'I will not make him a king, but I will make him a rich man.' Three hundred years went by; I became angry and I said, 'If any man opens the jar now, I will kill him, but he can say how he will die.' So you see, you have opened the jar. Now say how you want to die."

The fisherman said, "I want to ask you one thing. Will you answer it?"

"I will," said the giant, "if you ask it quickly."

The fisherman said, "Were you in that jar?"

"I was," said the giant.

The fisherman looked at the jar, and said, "But you are so big. One of your feet is as big as the jar. You were not in the jar. Why don't you think before you speak? Is there nothing inside your head?"

The giant was angry: he became small again, and went into the jar. Then the giant inside the jar said, "You see now that I was in the jar." The fisherman quickly took the top and put it on the jar. Then he said, "Now, giant, I will throw the jar back into the sea, and I will tell all the fishermen not to take it out again."

The giant could not get out of the jar, because the name of the King of the Giants was written on the top.

Then the giant said, "If you will open the jar, I'll make you rich."

"No. You will kill me."

"No," said the giant, "I won't kill you. I'll make you very, very rich."

"Then," said the fisherman, "I'll open it."

And he opened the jar again.

The giant came out of the jar; he quickly took the jar and threw it into the sea. Then he said to the fisherman, "Bring your net and come with me."

They went by the side of the city, then they went up a hill. Then they went down and came

The giant comes out of the jar

to three hills, and a great sea of blue water. In the water there were many fish.

The giant said, "Put in your net."

The fisherman put in his net, then took it out, and in the net he saw three fish. They were very beautiful – red, and white, and gold. The giant said, "Take the fish to your king, and he will give you a lot of money for them."

The giant hit a stone with his foot. A great hole opened, and he went down into it.

Then the fisherman went to the king and took the three fish.

The king cried, "What beautiful fish!" He said to his servant, "Take these fish. Give them to the cook, and tell him to make them ready."

The king gave the fisherman a lot of gold. The fisherman was very pleased. He went and got food and clothes, and all that his wife and children wanted.

The king's cook took the fish and put them in a pot. He put the pot on the fire. Then the wall of the room opened and a beautiful woman came out. She went up to the pot and said, "Fish, fish, are you doing your work?"

The fish said nothing. She said again, "Fish, fish, are you doing your work?" Then the fish put up their heads, and said, "We are, and we are happy." Then the woman threw the pot down. The wall opened, and she went into it.

The fish had fallen into the fire and were

burnt. The king sat and waited. Then he said to his servant, "Go and see why the fish aren't ready."

The servant went, and the cook told him what he had seen.

The servant did not know what to think. He sent for the fisherman and said, "Bring me three more fish."

The fisherman went and got three more fish. The servant took the fish and went with the cook. The cook put the fish in the pot, and put the pot on the fire. Then the wall opened, and a woman came out and said, "Fish, fish, are you doing your work?" And the fish answered, "We are, and we are happy." The servant went and told the king what he had seen.

Then the king wanted to see this thing. He sent for the fisherman and said, "Bring me three more fish like those."

The fisherman went and got three more fish and took them to the king. The king gave him more gold. Then the king went with the cook. The cook put the fish in a pot, and put the pot on the fire. Then the wall opened, and a big man with a red beard came out and said, "Fish, fish, are you doing your work?" The fish answered, "We are, and we are happy." Then the man threw the pot down, and the fish fell into the fire and were burnt. The wall opened, the man went into it, and the wall was shut. The king said, "I don't know what to think. But I *will* know." He

sent for the fisherman, and said, "Fisherman, where do you get those fish?"

The fisherman said, "I get them from a sea of blue water near three hills on the other side of the city."

"Do you know that place?" said the king to his servant.

The servant said, "No. I have gone to that side of the city, but I never saw three hills and a sea of blue water near them."

"How far is it from here?" asked the king.

"It is three hours," answered the fisherman.

Then the king and all his men went with the fisherman. They went through the country on the other side of the city, and they came to three hills, and near the three hills they saw a sea of blue water. They saw fish in the water like those of the fisherman.

Then the king said, "Wait in this place, and I will go and see what there is to be seen."

Then the king went up the hill. On the other side of the hill he saw a great house, all made of red stone. He hit the door with his hand, but no one came. He called, but no one answered. He went in, and saw beautiful rooms, but no one was there. On all sides of the house there were gardens full of flowers. Then the king went into a big hall. As he stood there, he heard someone speak: "How soon shall I die? I don't want to live."

The king looked and saw a young man sitting on the other side of the room with a cloth over his feet.

The king went to him. The young man did not stand up, but he said, "I know you are a king, but I can't stand up." Then the young man took away the cloth, and the king saw that his feet were made of white stone.

The king said, "How is this? Why are your feet made of stone? Why do the fish speak? Why does a big man with a beard come out of the wall of the room? Tell me all this."

The young man said, "I will tell you. Where this sea and these three hills are, there was once a great city. My father was king of that city. When my father died, I became king of the city. I married a beautiful woman, but she didn't love me. She loved a servant. I wanted to kill that servant; I hit him, but I didn't kill him; he didn't die. My wife was very angry. She said something, and my feet became stone; the city became three hills and a sea of blue water; and all the men and women in the city became fish in the water. In this garden is a little house made of white stone: the servant is in that house. He is alive, but he can't walk. Each day my wife goes and sees him."

Then the king went to the house in the garden. He saw the servant there on a bed. He killed the servant, then he got on to the bed. He covered

his face, and waited. After a time, the woman came and said, "Are you happy, my servant?"

The king said, "I can't sleep, because the young king cries out so because his feet are changed to stone."

Then she took some water and threw it over the young man, and his feet were not stone, so he stood up and walked.

Then the king said, "I can't sleep because the men and women of the city call out from the water at night. Make them men and women again."

She went to the side of the great sea of blue water and said something, and, where the sea and the three hills had been, there came a great city. And the fish were men and women again.

Then she went to the king and said, "Are you happy, my servant?" He said, "Come near." She came near. He said, "Come nearer." Then he killed her.

He went to the young man, and said, "The bad woman is dead. The city is not a sea, and the men and women are not fish. All is as it was."

The king of the city sent a lot of gold and many beautiful things to the fisherman, and the fisherman and his wife lived happily ever after.

The White Birds

Once there was a king who had ten sons, and he had one girl, named Elisa. They were very good children, and they were very happy. The mother of these children died, and the king married a new queen. She was a bad woman. Then the queen said to the king, "Your ten sons are very bad boys. Can I send them away?"

The king loved his queen and thought that she was a good woman. He was very sad when he heard that his sons were not good boys, but he said, "If you think that they should go away, they must go away."

Then the bad queen changed the king's ten sons into ten white birds.

"Go away into some other country," said the queen. "Be changed into birds, and find your own food where you can."

Then the ten brothers were changed into white birds and they went up, up, up, into the sky; on, on, on, over the hills and rivers; and at last they came to a great forest near to a sea.

Elisa went out of the house alone. She went along dusty lanes and over fields. On and on she walked, day after day. She did not know where she was going. She was very sad and she

wanted to see her brothers. "I will go on and on," she said, "and at last I will find them."

And it may be that her love led her, for she came at last to the great forest near to the sea.

She had not gone far into the forest when night came on. She could not see to go on any more. So she slept at the foot of a tree.

Day came. Elisa opened her eyes. She had been sleeping in the forest, and the sun was in the sky. The smell of trees and flowers was all round her, and in front of her there was a little river.

She walked all day, and, when the night came, she slept at the foot of a tree. And all night the fairies stood round her to see that no beast of the forest could come near her or make her afraid.

She set out again, and she saw an old woman. The old woman gave her some food.

"What are you doing here in this great forest?" asked the old woman as Elisa was eating.

"I am looking for my ten brothers," said Elisa. "Have you seen ten princes riding through the forest?"

"Ten princes?" said the old woman. "No, I have not. But I saw ten white birds this morning, and they may have been bird-princes, for they had golden marks on their heads. They were near the river."

The old woman led Elisa to the river. Then Elisa walked along the side of the river, and at last she came to the sea. Near her stood ten white birds.

She looked about her. It was a beautiful country. At her feet were the prettiest flowers she had ever seen. On all sides were great trees. In front of her were hills, and on one of the hills was a great white house, with many windows.

The white birds went up to the great house. Elisa was alone. She got sticks and made a little hut. Then she went to get flowers to make her hut look pretty. When she came back she found that someone had put food for her in her hut, fish and eggs and bread.

When night fell her brothers came to see her. They sat just outside the hut and told stories. Then, when it was time to sleep, the brothers went away to sleep under the trees near the hut.

"Sleep well, Elisa," they said.

So Elisa slept in the little hut. And, as she slept, she thought that she saw the old woman who had come to her in the forest. She was the same, but not the same. For now the old woman had become a beautiful fairy.

"Do you want to save your brothers?" said the fairy.

"Yes," cried Elisa, "I do!"

"If you want to save them, you must be very brave. Are you brave?"

"I can be brave to save them," answered Elisa.

"Then I will tell you what you must do. Do you see those plants with golden flowers? You must put them in water. Then take the hard outside of the plant, and wash that many times in water. From that you can make cloth. And from the cloth you can make coats. You must make ten coats, one for each of your brothers. You must do all the work with your own hands. And you must not speak. When the last coat is done, you may speak again. If you speak before then, your brothers will die."

Elisa woke up. She knew that a fairy had come to her in her sleep. She looked and saw the plants with the golden flowers growing in the water in front of her hut. There was a hole full of water near the hut. She took the plants and put them down in the water, and she put stones on them to make them stay down. She worked at this all day.

Her brothers came that night, and she did not speak. They thought that the queen had sent some bad fairy and had done this. Then they saw what she was doing. "Why is she doing that?" they asked. But they knew that she was doing it for them.

Day by day she worked, and six coats were ready.

Then one day, when Elisa was working at the

waterside, a great dog jumped out at her. Then there came another dog, and another. They made a great noise and ran round her. Then a man came through the trees, and many others came after him. As Elisa looked at him, she knew that he was a good man and that she would never love any other.

He came to her and said, "How did you come here? No one lives on this side of the country. Where do you come from?"

Elisa said nothing.

The man was the king of a great country near that place.

Each day the king came and spoke to Elisa. He knew that he loved her, and that he would never make any other woman his queen. He was very sad because she would not speak, but he knew that she would speak some day.

At last one day he said to her, "Will you be my queen?"

Elisa began to cry. She went away from him and took up many of the plants in her arms.

"I will bring all those plants and the work that you are doing. It shall all be brought to my house," he said. "Will you come with me?"

Elisa could not say "No," because she loved him.

So Elisa went with the king to his city, and they brought the plants and the six coats with them. Her brothers were very sad, but each day she saw them far up in the sky over the king's

Elisa goes with the king to his city

house, and she knew that they were thinking of her.

Now the king had a friend who was a bad man. He was very angry when the king married Elisa, for he wanted to be king when this king died. He thought, "Now the king will get a son, and I shall not become king after him." The king thought that his friend was a good man, because the king was a very kind and good man, and he thought that all other men were like himself.

Every day Elisa worked at the coats. Two more coats were ready now, but the plants were all gone. And the king had gone away from the city on a long journey.

She looked here and she looked there, to find some of the plants, and at last she found some. But they were growing near the place where all the dead beasts were thrown out from the city. The queen could not go to this place in the day time. She waited, and, when night came, she took a lamp and went out and got the plants.

Now the king's friend did the work of the king when he was away from the city. He was awake that night, and he saw the queen go out. And on the next night she went out, and on the next night. Every night the queen went out, and he saw where she went!

Then he called the great men of the country, and he said to them, "Wait here with me and see what the queen does at night." So they saw.

Then he said, "She must be a bad woman to do this. She is working for some wizard, and she wants to kill our good king. You know that she never speaks. Why does she never speak? It's because she can't speak like a woman! It is a wizard who looks like a woman, but he can't speak like a woman, and that is why he never speaks."

The great men thought that this was so.

Then the friend said, "This wizard must be killed. But the king is so good that he will never kill anyone. We must kill this queen-wizard before the king comes back."

Only one coat had not been done.

The king's friend came to the queen and told her that on the next day she would be killed. "You are a wizard," he said, "and you will be burnt as a wizard in the open place in front of this house."

Now the king was riding along a road one day's journey from the city. He saw a white bird in the sky. Down it came and sat on his horse's head.

The horse was afraid and began to go back along the road to the city. The king made his horse go the other way again. But again the bird came down. And so it was again and again. Then the king saw the mark on the bird's head. And he thought, "It's a fairy bird. It has come to tell me to go back to the city. When the queen came, those birds came. Every day I have seen

them over my house. The bird has come to tell me to save the queen. I'll go at once."

So he went quickly along the road to the city.

Elisa worked all night. And all night the king was riding and the white bird was over his head making cries as if it wanted to say "Quickly! Quickly!"

The men of the city all came to the open place in front of the king's house.

They looked up. "What are those white birds doing in the sky? Why do they make so much noise?" they said.

Wood was brought and put ready.

A man brought fire to the wood, but a white bird came down and threw himself at it, and the fire fell from the man's hand.

Again and again fire was brought, but the white birds came down, and the man had to go back for more.

At last a lot of men went, and the fire was brought.

Men came to the queen. She took the coats and went out with them in her arms.

The king had come to the city. He saw the men in front of his house.

"What are they doing?" he said.

"Quick-ly! Quick-ly!" cried the white bird.

The queen was led out of the house. Over her head were the white birds. Another white bird came to them over the heads of all the men. Now

there were ten white birds.

The queen was brought to the fire. The white birds stood near her.

"It is the queen!" cried the king as he threw the men this way and that, making his way to the place. "A fire!" cried the king. "Why? What do they want to burn?"

Then he saw his friend, and he knew! And men ran from before the king, seeing the angry light in his eyes.

"Burn her!" cried the friend.

Then the queen threw the coats over the white birds. They stood up, ten young princes. The princes took the king's friend by his arms and his feet. "Once! Twice! Three times!" and they threw him into the fire.

The king put his arms round his queen.

"Speak to me now," he said, "my beautiful queen."

You know those pretty white birds that live on the sea. You hear them cry, as they go over the great waters, "Quick-ly! Quick-ly!"

This is the story of their cry.

Questions

Questions on each story

The Table, the Donkey and the Stick

1 What magic words did Tom have to say to the table?
2 What happened to the magic table in the bad man's house?
3 What magic word did Bob have to say to the donkey?
4 What happened when he said the magic word?
5 What happened to the donkey?
6 What magic words did Jack have to say? (2 sets)
7 What happened when he said the magic words?
8 What did the bad man try to steal from Jack?
9 What happened to the bad man?
10 What did Jack take home to his father's house?

The Prince and his Servants

1 What happened to princes who couldn't do what the queen said?
2 What was the hill Prince Carol saw?
3 What could Big Ear hear in the princess's house?
4 How did Quick Eyes see things that were near?
5 What was Cold Man wearing?
6 What did the queen tell Prince Carol to do first?
7 What happened to all the queen's food?
8 How did the queen make the prince fall asleep?
9 Where did she hide the princess?
10 What happened to the queen in the end?

The Glass Box

1 What did the old woman want from the hall?
2 What was under the dog with eyes as big as apples?
3 Who threw a stone at Hans?
4 Where was the princess?
5 What did Hans do to call the dog with eyes as big as loaves?

6 Which dog took the princess to and from the garden the first time?
7 Who told the king about the princess's visits to the garden?
8 Where was the princess's shoe?
9 Who brought the glass box to Hans?
10 What happened to the man with the axe?

The Fisherman and the Giant

1 Where was the giant before the fisherman saw him?
2 How long was the giant there?
3 Why couldn't the giant get out? (Because . . .)
4 What were the fish in the blue water like?
5 Who did the fisherman take the fish to?
6 What did the woman do with the fish?
7 How far was the sea of blue water from the city?
8 Where was the red stone house?
9 Who turned the young king's feet into stone?
10 Who was the woman who came to the little white house?

The White Birds

1 Who changed the ten brothers into birds?
2 Who led Elisa to the river?
3 What did Elisa use to make her hut?
4 What did she use to make the coats?
5 Why did the king think that his friend was a good man? (Because . . .)
6 Where did Elisa go to get more of the plants?
7 Why did the king's "friend" want to kill Elisa?
8 What made the king go back to the city?
9 What did Elisa carry out of the house?
10 Who threw the king's "friend" into the fire?

Questions on the whole book

These are harder questions. Read the Introduction, and think hard about the questions before you answer them. Some of the questions ask for your opinion, and there is no fixed answer.

1 What kind of magic did you believe in when you were very young? Is there any of that magic in this book? If so, in which stories?

2 Some people today think that it is wrong to tell fairy stories to children. What is your opinion? Can you give reasons?

3 There is violence in the stories in this book:
In *The Table, the Donkey and the Stick*, the hero makes the stick hit bad men on the head, arms and back.
In *The Prince and his Servants*, the queen is very cruel. She kills princes who can't do the things she says, and she tries to kill the hero by fire.
In *The Glass Box*, the hero is nearly put to death by the axeman.
In *The Fisherman and the Giant*, the giant nearly kills the fisherman, an angry queen uses bad magic on a king, his city and his people, and in the end the king kills her and her servant.
In *The White Birds*, the new queen is very cruel to the ten princes, and the king's friend tries to kill the heroine by fire but is himself thrown into the fire.
Questions:
a What do you think about violence in children's stories?
b In which of the stories is the violence properly used? Give reasons for your answers. If your answer is "None", how would *you* change the story in each case?

4 You are asked to make a film of *one* of the five stories. There are problems in filming each of them. Choose the story that you would film. Then try to say how you would deal with the problems of filming that story.

5 Which hero or heroine do you like best? Can you give reasons?

New words

all night
from the beginning to the end of the night

earth
the ground; the soft stuff on the top of the ground that plants grow in

hero
the most important person in a story – or the brave man or boy we like best. The woman or girl we like best in a story is the **heroine**.

ice
water in its hard state when very cold

inn
a small house where, for money, you can eat or drink or sleep in a bed

island
a piece of land with sea, or other water, all round it

leave
go away from. Past form: **left**

loaf
a very large piece of bread. Plural: **loaves**

lock
turn the key so that a door can't be opened

net
something that fishermen use to take fish out of the sea

snow
the white form of rain on very cold days

stick
a long thin piece of wood broken from a tree

wicked
very bad; always doing bad things

wizard
a man with magic powers. A woman with such powers is a **witch**.

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